

The Historic Harvest Garden

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
Highlands Center
at Cape Cod National Seashore



In front of the Atlantic Research Center (ARC) Classroom you will find the Historic Harvest Garden, a project of Truro non-profit Sustainable CAPE (Center for Agricultural Preservation and Education) supported by NPS and AmeriCorps.

In 2011 Local and Native American youth were brought together to plant seeds sourced back to the 1600s in a raised garden bed. Planting the “three sisters” of corn, squash, and beans, showed the agricultural knowledge which was transferred from the Native Americans to the Pilgrims in 1620, enabling their later survival in Plymouth.



Left: AmeriCorps Cape Cod members build the raised garden bed out of plastic lumber.
Above: Corn, squash, and beans are planted in the new garden bed.

A collaborative project, Highlands Center partner, AmeriCorps Cape Cod, constructed the 3 by 16 foot raised garden bed during the site’s annual Spring Clean Up Day in 2011. Sustainable CAPE’s Francie Randolph and youth came together in fall to harvest. The bed now contains plants used throughout history as medicines. The garden will feature blooms of Goldenrod, Wild Indigo, and Monarda, alongside Bearberry, Bayberry and Beach Plum.

Through such projects, children will learn about history, agricultural sustainability and medicinal uses of plants as well as gaining valuable lessons in environmental leadership and community service. A welcome addition to the Highlands Center, this demonstration garden promulgates the site’s science and education mission.